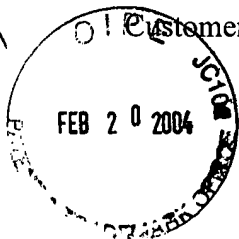


61 Customer No. 35743

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Reply under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Technology Center 1600

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants Bruno Macchia, et al.

Confirmation No. 8279

Serial No. 10/031,692

FEB 24 2004

Filed January 22, 2002

For **CERAMIDE ANALOGS, PROCESS FOR THEIR PREPARATION
AND THEIR USE AS ANTITUMOR AGENTS**

Group Art Unit 1623

Examiner Lewis, Patrick T.

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AFCommissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

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Signature: Carrie L. Caggiano

Carrie L. Caggiano

February 18, 2004

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed November 18, 2003 ("Office Action"). Since a response is due February 18, 2004, this Amendment is timely filed.

Please amend the application as follows:

Amendments To The Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.